

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-0385**

**Gunpowder Copper Works House**

**10900 Harford Road**

**Glen Arm, Baltimore County**

**1815 ca.**

**Private**

Existing accounts differ as to the date that Levi Hollingsworth established the Gunpowder Copper Works. Nevertheless, the vernacular Gunpowder Copper Works House, which was reportedly used as a dormitory for the nearby plant, was most likely constructed by 1820. Hollingsworth leased a gristmill from Dr. Thomas Love and Caleb Dorsey Goodwin in 1811, and presumably his copper works establishment commenced after this date of lease. In 1812, the Gunpowder Copper Works supplied the United States Navy with copper for shipbuilding. Shortly after the war, the company supplied the copper for the reconstruction of the dome on the U.S. Capitol building. Although the Gunpowder Copper Works is labeled on both the 1850 and 1877 county atlases, neither map labels the extant resource as a dormitory or other manufactory-related building. Prior records indicate that the building was converted to a stable circa 1900 by J. Alexis Shriver. J.A. Shriver is listed as the occupant of the "Old Copper Works" in the 1915 county atlas, and it was most likely by this point that part of the copper works was converted into a residence. The Gunpowder Copper Works House remains a single dwelling.

The Gunpowder Copper Works House is a one-and-a-half-story vernacular dwelling of solid coursed rubble stone construction with ashlar quoins. A coursed rubble stone exterior chimney is located at the north corner. The three-bay-wide, three-bay-deep main block was converted into a stable circa 1900 and then returned to domestic use circa 1925. At that time, a wide shed-roofed dormer was added to the side asphalt-shingled side gable roof and a concrete block addition was constructed on the rear of the building. This addition is articulated by an interior concrete block chimney. Circa 1990, a recessed, one-story, two-bay-wide random rubble stone wing was added to the main block and concrete block addition. The façade, or southeast elevation, is now pierced by a central sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door flanked by four fourteen-light paired casement windows with operable louvered wood shutters. All openings have square-edged wood surrounds and splayed stone lintels. A three-bay-wide inset porch with shaped wood brackets and square wood posts shelters the first story. Six paired nine-light casement windows pierce the weatherboard-clad dormer. Two one-story, one-bay-square wood frame outbuildings that date to circa 1900 are also located on the property.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0385

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Gunpowder Copper Works House (preferred)  
other William L. Wilson House

### 2. Location

street and number 10900 Harford Road not for publication  
city, town Glen Arm vicinity  
county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles T. Bronzert and Holly L. Thomas  
street and number 10900 Harford Road telephone Not Available  
city, town Glen Arm state MD zip code 21057

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 4627 folio 420  
city, town Towson tax map 62 tax parcel 318 tax ID number 1900011382

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0385

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed circa 1815, the Gunpowder Copper Works House is a one-and-a-half-story vernacular dwelling of solid coursed rubble stone construction with ashlar quoins. A coursed rubble stone exterior chimney is located at the north corner. The three-bay-wide, three-bay-deep main block was converted into a stable circa 1900 and then returned to domestic use circa 1925. At that time, a wide shed-roofed dormer was added to the side asphalt-shingled side gable roof and a concrete block addition was constructed on the rear of the building. This addition is articulated by an interior concrete block chimney. Circa 1990, a recessed, one-story, two-bay-wide random rubble stone wing was added to the main block and concrete block addition. The façade, or southeast elevation, is now pierced by a central sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door flanked by four fourteen-light paired casement windows with operable louvered wood shutters. All openings have square-edged wood surrounds and splayed stone lintels. A three-bay-wide inset porch with shaped wood brackets and square wood posts shelters the first story. Six paired nine-light casement windows pierce the weatherboard-clad dormer.

Two one-story, one-bay-square wood frame outbuildings that date to circa 1900 are also located on the property. The first is clad in composition siding with a cinderblock foundation and a steeply pitched asphalt-shingled front gable roof. The façade is pierced by one flush-vertical-board double-leaf wood door below a smaller flush-vertical-board single-leaf wood door that pierces the gable peak. The second outbuilding is clad in weatherboard with a solid random rubble stone foundation and an asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof and a sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door. Circa 1930, a small wing that appears to have served as a children's playhouse was added to the building.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0385

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1815 ca.-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1815 ca., 1900 ca., 1925 ca., 1990 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Existing accounts differ as to the date that Levi Hollingsworth established the Gunpowder Copper Works.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, the vernacular Gunpowder Copper Works House, which was reportedly used as a dormitory for the nearby plant, was most likely constructed by 1820.<sup>2</sup> Hollingsworth leased a gristmill from Dr. Thomas Love and Caleb Dorsey Goodwin in 1811, and presumably his copper works establishment commenced after this date of lease. In 1812, the Gunpowder Copper Works supplied the United States Navy with copper for shipbuilding. Shortly after the war, the company supplied the copper for the reconstruction of the dome on the U.S. Capitol building.<sup>3</sup> Although Hollingsworth was known to import British copper for his manufactory, it is unlikely that Hollingsworth used imported British copper for these projects. Rather, he most likely used copper brought from Frederick County, Maryland.<sup>4</sup> Although the Gunpowder Copper Works is labeled on both the 1850 and 1877 county atlases, neither map labels the extant resource as a dormitory or other manufactory-related building.<sup>5</sup> Prior records indicate that the building was converted to a stable circa 1900 by J. Alexis Shriver.<sup>6</sup> J.A. Shriver is listed as the occupant of the "Old Copper Works" in the 1915 county atlas, and it was most likely by this point that part of the copper works was converted into a residence.<sup>7</sup> The Gunpowder Copper Works House remains a single dwelling.

<sup>1</sup> The Baltimore County Historic Inventory provides a circa 1804 date for the construction of the extant resource, suggesting that the copper works existed at this early date; see also Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979) p. 205. A post 1810 date is supported by John W. McGrain, *From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck: A History of Manufacturing Villages in Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1985), p. 242 and Baltimore County Public Library History & Genealogy InfoCenter, [http://www.pcplonline.org/info/history/hist\\_pe\\_gunpowder.html](http://www.pcplonline.org/info/history/hist_pe_gunpowder.html) (19 May 2001).

<sup>2</sup> Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

<sup>3</sup> McGrain, p. 242.

<sup>4</sup> Brooks and Rockel, p. 205.

<sup>5</sup> J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850); see also *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

<sup>6</sup> Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

<sup>7</sup> *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0385

*Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Baltimore County Public Library History & Genealogy InfoCenter. [http://www.pcplonline.org/info/history/hist\\_pe\\_gunpowder.html](http://www.pcplonline.org/info/history/hist_pe_gunpowder.html) (19 May 2001).

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

*Map of Baltimore County*. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

McGrain, John W. *From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck: A History of Manufacturing Villages in Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1985.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name White Marsh

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction circa 1815, the Gunpowder Copper Works House has been associated with the 1.06 acres of land known as tax parcel 318 of map 62 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

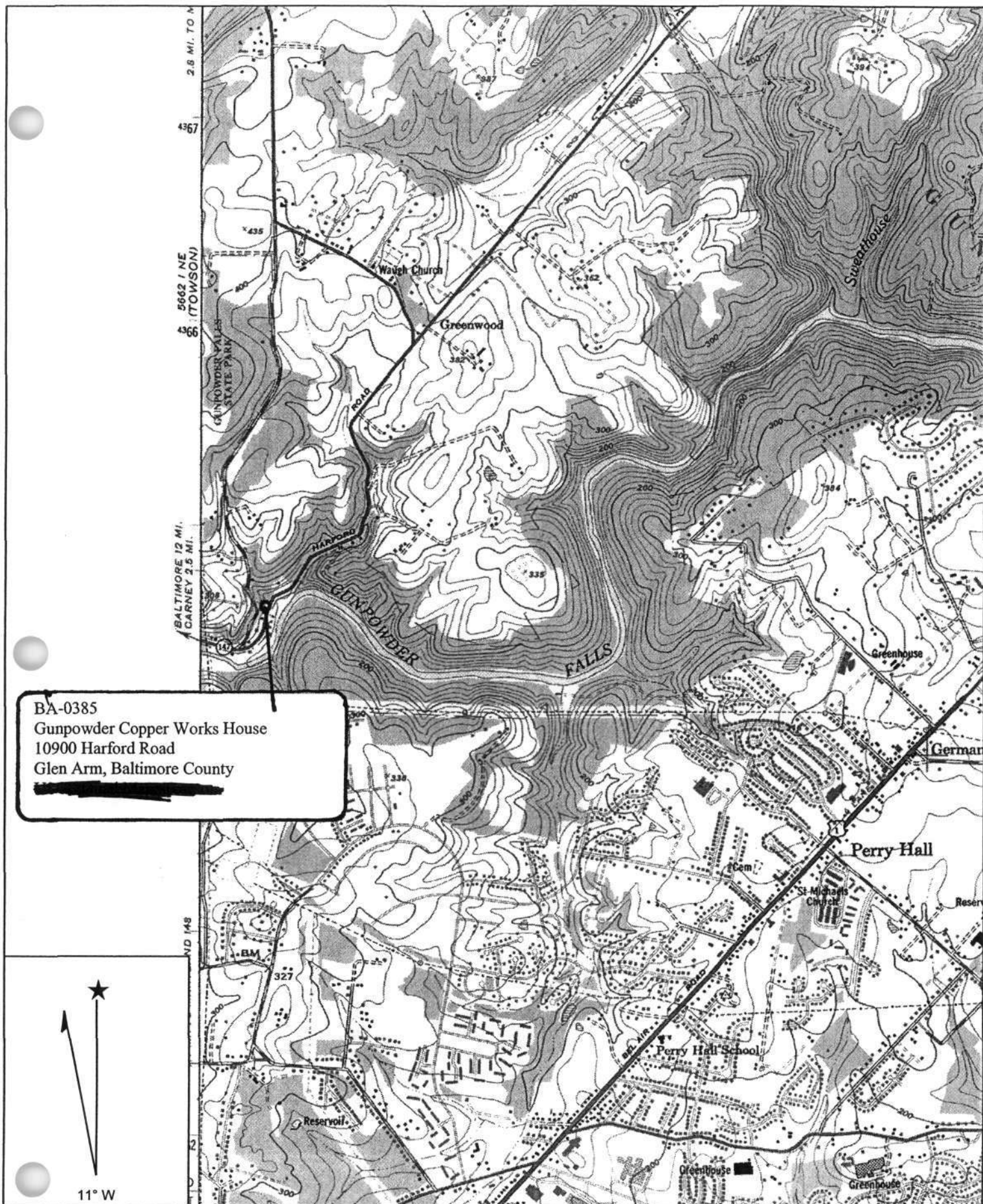
## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 19, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



BA-0385  
Gunpowder Copper Works House  
10900 Harford Road  
Glen Arm, Baltimore County

Name: WHITE MARSH  
Date: 6/2/2003  
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 18 372334 E 4364581 N



BA-0385

10900 HARFORD ROAD, GLEN ARM  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

SE ELEVATION  
1 of 3



BA-0385

10900 HARFORD ROAD, GLEN ARM  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERLES

3/2001

MD SHPO

E. CORNER

2 of 5



BA-0385

10900 HAEFORD ROAD, GLEN ARM  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

W. CORNER

3 of 5



BA-0385

10900 HARFORD ROAD, GLENARY  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

S. CORNER

4 of 5



BA-0385

10900 HARTFORD ROAD, GLEN ARM  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

OUTBUILDINGS

5 of 5

BA- 385

**WILLIAM L. WILSON** - 1804 - 10900 Harford Road, west side, 0.2 mile northeast of intersection with Factory Road. This house has been described as the dormitory for the Gunpowder Copper Works complex. Converted into a stable c. 1900 by J. Alexis Shriver. Reconverted to residential purposes later on. Stone house with wide shed dormer and overhanging front porch roof.